

## Message Text

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12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 EB-07 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 /072 W

----- 107551

R 121330Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4631

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0537

1. DURING VISIT WITH FCO ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY NORMAN ASPIN WHILE I WAS IN LONDON, I ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT. HE CONFIRMED THAT HMG WAS IN PROCESS OF TERMINATING ARRANGEMENT. HE SAID TEXT OF EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN HMG AND SAG UNDER CONSIDERATION.

2. AS FOLLOW-UP TO THAT CONVERSATION, I ASKED BRITISH AMBASSADOR BOTTOMLEY ABOUT STATE OF PLAY ON FORMALITIES AS WELL AS PRACTICAL EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON WORKING ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN RN AND SAN.

3. BOTTOMLEY REPLIED THAT EXCHANGE HAD STILL NOT TAKEN PLACE SINCE THERE WERE STILL SOME ASPECTS UNDER NEGOTIATION. WITH RESPECT TO PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES OF TZRMINATION, HE NOTED THAT:

A. THE RN WOULD GIVE UP THE TWO BERTHS EAR-MARKED AT SIMONSTOWN FOR RN.

B. THE NAVAL ATTACHE WOULD GIVE UP FUNCTION OF SENIOR BRITISH NAVAL OFFICER SOUTH AFRICA (SBNOSA) AND WOULD NO LONGER MAINTAIN OFFICES AT MARITIME HEADQUARTERS.

C. SHIP REFUELING WOULD BE HANDLED AS A COMMERCIAL  
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TRANSACTION THROUGH SHELL, WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING THE FACILITIES

IN ANY EVENT. (PRESUMABLY RN TANKERS WOULD NO LONGER HAUL OIL TO SA.)

D. THE PROVISIONS ON TRAINING EXERCISES WOULD TERMINATE, BUT THERE HAVE NOT BEEN JOINT EXERCISES FOR SOME TIME AND NONE ARE CONTEMPLATED. (LAST EXERCISES WE KNOW OF WERE IN OCTOBER 1974.)

E. FUTURE COOPERATION ON TRAINING, FURNISHING OF TACTICAL PUBLICATIONS TO SAN, AND COMMUNICATION WOULD BE HANDLED ON "AN AD HOC BASIS AS OTHER NAVIES DO."

4. GENERAL IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY BOTTOMLEY WAS THAT FORMAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT WOULD CEASE, TO BE REPLACED BY INFORMAL, AD HOC ARRANGEMENTS OF INTEREST TO THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT SAG MORE CONCERNED BY POLITICAL IMPLICATION OF TERMINATION (I.E., APPEARANCE OF GROWING ISOLATION) THAN PRACTICAL IMPACT ON SAN OPERATIONS.  
BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Draft Date:** 12 MAY 1975  
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**Subject:** STATUS OF SIMONSTOWN AGREEMENT  
**TAGS:** PINS, SF, RH, (ASPIN, NORMAN), (BOTTOMLEY, JAMES)  
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